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Period: 5

The Crucible Anticipation Guide Part II

1. Confessing to a crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment is wise.

I would never confess to a crime that I did not commit in order to avoid punishment for someone else; that would make me guilty. I should not set myself up to a guilty plea when I am innocent. Each and every person needs to stand up for what they have done. Why should I be condemned to a crime when I had nothing to do with it? It is not commendable to lie in order to cover up for someone else’s actions, even if someone was to avoid punishment for their wrongdoings, the consequences will always haunt them. Many people blame themselves for others wrongdoings; this is extremely incorrect because in the long run, you are only paying the repercussions for their actions. It’s not a smart or wise decision to ruin your record, let alone, freeing the criminal from any type of sanction. People usually lie to avoid penalties. Although innocent people sometimes may confess to terrible crimes they may not have even committed, they may actually believe that they did. Covering up for someone else’s actions and admitting to guilty and unethical behaviors can cause detrimental consequences that will impact your life in the long run, many people can be influenced by others and lead into thinking that they are making the right choices by masking the situation for them and facing consequences, possibility even conviction. Although you may feel the need to disguise something for someone, possibly because you have a very strong relationship with them or even because you simply feel bad for them, this does not mean that you shall admit to their wrongdoings, making yourself suffer the emanation and leaving yourself susceptible to lifetime regret. Before ever doing this for anyone, always think of the reactions to your actions before actually committing them. Another reason why innocent people may admit to committing a heinous crime is because they may feel bad for the victim who suffered or had a repercussion due to the crime at hand. Many people do have feelings of guilt and shame and therefore, may even take the situation into their own hands, regardless of what they will have to face. They may also feel things such as remorse and want justice for those who have suffered such terrible things. On the other hand, others may want to have their five minutes of fame. In other words, when someone has committed an atrocious crime and someone else has been blamed for it, the innocent person may want to take matters into their own hands or perhaps would want to be in the media, be the talk of town. This would glorify whoever took the blame or suffers the guilt for the crime committed at hand. Regardless of the case or situation, it is never correct to camouflage others wrongdoings. The wrongdoer must pay the consequences for their actions, allowing them to reflect on what they have done. As stated, there are many reasons why I would not admit to committing a crime that I was not guilty of.

1. The difference between right and wrong is clear.

I do not believe that the difference between right and wrong is always clear. Especially living in Miami, we see many different cultures, nationalities and people on an everyday basis. Our own schools theme is children and many these kids are students from diverse places, cultures and countries.  The difference between right and wrong can vary amongst everyone based on your moral standards and your ability to communicate and interpret what is going on around you. The way that laws are written in this country can confuse anyone, especially when you do not know the language or cannot communicate or understand what is right and wrong.  Also, as a child I still learn every day, I am still learning the difference between what is right and what is wrong.  We all make mistakes and we do not always learn from our mistakes.  Sometimes we as people may do something that we may think is right even though too many other people may think it’s wrong. For example, some people choose to live their lives a certain way. Others may find the way they live wrong because it is not the way they live or do things.  The way people are raised, who they are, where they come from, how they live, and the way they interpret things all have a way of affecting people, a community, a family and or a culture as to what they believe is right or wrong. All of these things plus the way you think of or view things can change your thoughts on what is right or wrong. Take an innocent baby for example, they are born not knowing anything; they don’t know about rules or what not to do or what to do. They learn how to walk, talk, eat, and many other things on a daily basis. If a young innocent child does not know the difference between right and wrong until they are taught, then they will go on the rest of their lives with this confusion and since many children are never shown the difference, as they grow up they continue to live their life the way that they were raised and learned to be when they were young. They may have thought that taking a candy bar from the store and no one knowing about it when they were little was ok, however, when they grow up and attempt to do the same thing it is wrong. It becomes a crime punishable by law. In an example like this, that child was never told that it was wrong to steal. They tried it once and got away with it, as an adult, they attempted to steal again and ended up committing a crime. All over the world, due to the differences in cultures, there is never a clear way to determine right from wrong. While some may believe that gay marriage is correct due to the principles they were taught while growing up, others may believe that gay marriage is completely wrong and goes against societies principles. There is no right or wrong answer and its situations like these that demonstrate this idea. All these ideas and elements put together shows that it takes many factors to know the difference between right and wrong, right and wrong are two ideas that will never be clear.

1. It is better to die for what you believe in rather than to lie and save your life.

I do not believe it is better to die for what you believe in that to lie and save your life.  When it comes to your life being at risk, there are a lot of things to consider. For example, there are many soldiers who have headed off to war because of what they believe in and they never return because they died as a result of their faith. Although it is very commendable and honorable that these soldiers would choose to die for what they believe in rather than lie and be dishonorable, I feel that as they do their country justice in their fight, many may not even appreciate their time and efforts. Many times when soldiers are caught by their enemies, they do not talk when they are investigated and or interrogated.  Although it is admirable for someone to die for something they believe in and live their lives with such passion for what they feel, it is not right to loose a life for something that in the long run may not even have a result. Take Martin Luther King Jr. for example, he was a martyr and his death has impacted America in a global level, stopping the atrocious acts of racism. However, although King Jr. died as a result of his beliefs, another person’s death may not have the same affect. Thousands of soldiers die each year at war yet; the war only continues and in some situations, only gets worse. These hero’s should be remembered and admired everyday however, we overlook it many times. Death is never a result to anything, if you want to portray a message or feel very passionate about something, the correct way to do so is when your alive through a persuasive manner. Once you’re dead, no matter how much someone loved you, you will be forgotten. Therefore, dying for what you believe in is not a solution. Regardless of the passion you have in your heart for something you must always stand up for it and never let your guard down. Even when police officers do undercover work, they have to lie in order to save their lives. They use similar tactics like the military and they are able to bring down the criminal at hand and keep their life while doing so. Inclusively, a person usually changes their minds throughout their lifetime and commonly, the beliefs they once had, have changed. What if you change you mind on what you once felt so strongly about? If you died because of these strong beliefs, there is no solution however, if you are alive, you will realize how you made the right choice in standing up for what you believed in rather than dying for this cause. Loosing your life as a cause of one’s beliefs is not helpful to your cause and you will still end up losing your life. Therefore, I do not feel it is better to die for what you believe in rather than lie to save your life.

1. There is only one way to interpret the bible.

I do not believe that there is only one way to interpret the bible.  It is said that the bible is the initial book when it comes to religion. Many people in the United States have used the bible as a manual to form other religions. There are many religions and practices in the United States.  Some examples of religions that have derived from the bible are the Catholic religion, the Christian religion, Baptist religion, Judaism, better known as the Jewish religions, the Islamic religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Kabala and Rastafarian religions; these have all developed from initial stories from the bible. Since everyone’s interpretation of anything can be different (because all people are different, no two people are the same) everyone can have a different idea of what anything means. Therefore, when reading the bible many people have interpreted and said that they bible is actually a guide to other religions. There has been much speculation about the bible and how things can be interpreted. Many people say that God originated in the region they believe in. Sometimes because of certain stories in the bible, many people believe that whatever they believe in came from the particular region they believe in. For example, many people who practice Judaism believe that because many of the stories in the bible start of or discuss the story taking place in Jerusalem that their god or version of God originated from Jerusalem, thereby making their god, belief, and or religion to be Jewish. This goes for any other religions; Catholics believe that their God, belief or religion originates in Catholicism. Since the bible is written of so many different stories, there are many ways to interpret these ideas; similar to literature, it is open to multiple interpretations and there is no right or wrong answer. For this reason, there are so many beliefs in our society. Just because someone or something tells you something, it doesn’t mean that you will believe exactly that, perhaps you can even interpret the bible as a funny story. There is never a right or wrong answer when it comes to a book and much less the bible. Regardless of the many religions that exist between this country and other countries around the world, many people have the ability to interpret things in their own way. No matter what you believe in it is very likely that within that belief or religion, it originated from another religion or it came from a subdivision of the bible. There are many different versions of this holy book and these are all a result of the different interpretations and remakes of it. There is never a correct way of understanding something, this even includes math. Each individual has a brain and has the power to see something in different manners. Therefore, due to the multiple ways that a person can interpret the bible, there is no one-way to actually decide what it is directly trying to say. It all depends on the person, group, culture, city and or country when it comes to concluding an interpretation, especially one of the bible.

1. That which does not destroy us makes us stronger.

I do believe that which does not destroy us makes us stronger. Sometimes as people, we experience many types of situations, feelings and overall experiences in our lives.  Many times when we experience something terrible in our lives we think that it is so bad it will kill us. Many of us tend to forget that we may have experienced this feeling before and although we thought we could not overcome a situation, we faced it with our head held up high. Although this is the case, if you were to look back and analyzed when that situation occurred you, you had the same feeling and everything turned out just fine, you will notice that these difficulties that you faced ended up making you much wiser, stronger and able to take on more in the world. There are many different forms of sickness that have been said to kill many humans within the United States and that they have no cure. Many people are faced with terminal illness during their lifetime and they are told that this type of sickness will possibility kill them, regardless of cases like these, many people have overcome and fought the sickness, being cured and still living through it. Many people with cancer, aids, leukemia, sickle cell and lupus have lived and become stronger after having these terrible diseases. Many people who have encountered sicknesses like these only become stronger both physically and emotionally. Some individuals inclusively become advocates and help causes like these in order to help others who go through these illnesses and sicknesses so that they can become stronger and fight their situations in a brave manner. Many people also find that when they survive these terrible experiences there is nothing else they cannot overcome. No matter what they are faced with they will take the situations head on and attempt to overcome it in the best manner possible. This is where the expression of “what does not kill you makes you so much stronger” originates from and represents. The same thing goes for working out or staying healthy, many have the philosophy that when you work out you need to feel the burn; no pain, no gain. No matter how tired you may feel, you have the ability to reach your goals, those of fitness or any other goals you may have. This is a very motivational tactic many trainers use to get people to push themselves beyond their limits to obtain a positive result. Those who work hard will see results. Pushing yourself physically and emotionally to a point where you do not hurt yourself but only push yourself to reach your goal, you will only make yourself stronger.  Whether your situation is an emotional situation, a sickness or illness or maybe even a personal or fitness goal, we realize in the end of those experiences that we believed were killer and that we would never overcome, that those experiences only made us stronger in one way or another, the only thing that doesn’t have a solution is death and therefore, whatever hardships that one may encounter throughout their lifetime only serve as life experiences and show us how to become better and stronger persons.

1. It’s more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt doesn’t forgive you.

As human beings that we are, many times we react to our emotions and at times our behavior is not to be proud of. Why is it harder to forgive yourself than to forgive others if the person I hurt does not forgive me for my wrongdoings? If this is the case, I would carry a guilty conscience which will not allow me to continue without blaming myself for my unacceptable behavior, especially when it my fault; no matter how the situation might have been I will regret doing what I did because of the morals that my family taught me when I was raised. At the end of the day there is nothing we can do about the past and what was said and done already occurred, life is tough and we must seek how to forgive ourselves when we act in an incorrect manner. If it is something beyond your control then we must try to stop blaming ourselves, it can became very hard to forgive yourself and life is not a one way street, if you commit a wrong action yet ask for forgiveness and you are not granted it, then the situation only becomes worst. Knowing myself, I would be thinking about my actions, especially at nights when I have more time to mediate and recall the incident; especially if it is someone that I love or is significant in my life. Forgiving yourself is something we must learn to do, yet, if you do not first receive forgiveness from the person you have hurt, you will always live with the regret running through your conscious. Many times it will teach us life lessons to think before we act, if we do not learn to forgive ourselves, how can we expect others to forgive us? One can only hope to be accepted, if not we must move on. Sometimes life takes many turns and maybe that person that did not forgive you in the past will reflect on their actions as well and will forgive you, they will come around and help you heal the wounds. Many of the times the people we have hurt will push us away because of the pain we have caused them and they do not want to experience the same disillusion once again. All we can do is try to earn their trust and be there if they happen to need us. We all make mistakes in the passage of our lives and we must always live and learn, we must struggle and take chances; we are all capable of making mistakes and many times it becomes hard to forgive others that have hurt us deeply. Forgiving is one of the hardest things to do as human beings because our pride and self-esteem was injured. We automatically reflect on the actions of those who have hurt us and refuse to forgive them, however, before doing so, one must think of the pain you are forcing these persons to endure. Many times we judge harshly, forgiving does not take way from the consequences and actions caused by others to you but it lets you feel better letting go of the pain, rejection, and humiliation. It takes time and lots of hard work but as you work toward it you will find that it is worth the effort to learn to forgive others. Many people make mistakes and we do not want to carry emotional baggage, we can only hope that others learn from our abilities to forgive, it will only make us stronger as a result and it will make the lives of those which we have hurt a lot easier.

1. Courage means doing something even though it can be difficult and fearsome.

Courage is the ability and willingness to confront fear, pain, danger, and the uncertain. Courage is also needed in order to face physical pain, and moral courage which many times can be the hardest and we often try to avoid it. For most of us this is one of the things that is so hard to do, we try to avoid it as much and we can in order to escape the possible consequences. Many times in life there are many obstacles to overcome but we have no other choice than to do so. One of the things we are faced with, one of the most important one is the ability to admit when we do something wrong, which is something we hate and at times, find it very difficult to accept our wrong and inappropriate actions. We must all own up to accept our faults. If because of our choices or by simple mistakes that we have committed are confronted about them and asked for an explanation, we must be honest and own up to our actions. If someone does not admit to their wrongdoings, they may be classified as a coward for avoiding or not admitting to what we did wrong, whether unconsciously or sometimes even consciously. Many of our decisions sometimes do not turn out as we expected. We can impact many lives with our wrong actions. As we get older, we will undoubtedly make many wrong choices in our personal lives as well as in our professional career however, when need be, we shall admit to our flaws. We will be confronted many times throughout our lifetime, as we are not perfect human beings. Working toward becoming a courageous person will only make you a stronger person and as you gain personal experience, you better yourself as an individual; learning to overcome our fears. Courage can come in many forms and there is really no age group, for example, when I was small I was afraid of the dark and would sleep with a table lamp on all night, one day I decided to be courageous and face my fears and sleep with all the lights off. I was able to overcome this particular fear of sleeping in the dark. If we do not have courage we probably would not get as far in life, through life we will require to take many steps and face many overwhelming challenges; some can be very risky and require a lot of courage to take the first step, especially if it can impact your family. For example, a new job will require many new skills that you may have never done before. It is a normal reaction to feel fearsome towards this new adventure that can make you shine or destroy you, these risks require courage to face your job with determination. A part of courage is letting go of the fears that we all have and in order to do so, we must think of the results that succeeding will have in our lives. We all will experience this in our lives we need to confront all situations in a mature fashion. When we were born, we did not have a book that consisted of many chapters and taught us how to be perfect human beings. As we start dealing with the exterior world we will come across situations that rise and call for us to react to the best of our abilities, courage is a big word that brings many fearsome situations along with it, but it is a matter of how we face life, how we can cope with life, and the ability to turn a negative to a positive. Regardless of how scared you may feel when you come across unexpected or frightening situations, you must always find the courage to confront the unexpected obstacles.

1. A person is innocent until proven guilty.

You should and will always have the right to defend yourself. No one has the right to condemn you and punish you for something you may have done or may not have done, the burden is basically on the prosecution to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the prosecution has to present and collect enough explicit evidence which can provide overwhelming proof such as arrest reports, witnesses and any other sources of evidence that can be of help to prove the clients future and convince the jury that is made up of randomly selected individuals, the jurors of whether this person committed this crime or not, they listen to the entire trail and analyze all the evidence, later deciding whether charges should be put against the individual or not. As a fundamental concept of the United States justice system in our Bill of Rights it ensures that all citizens receive a fair trial if they are ever charged with a crime. Everyone has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, it is very important for us to know our rights that protect us as citizens of the United States. The laws that are present in our society are set to guide us even in difficult circumstances; we have the right to obtain legal representation. This is an extremely valuable right that is granted to Americans if they are accused of a crime because if they have an effective lawyer that can defend them in a successful manner, then they do not have to face charges nor do they have to be in jail. Many times we can be accused of something that we did not do, we must prepare and fight for justice and freedom. One would not like to go behind bars for something they have not done and thankfully, the court system of the U.S. is very careful of this. Without the proper evidence to back up an accusation, a person can be unfairly condemned into prison or lifetime changes that will place a burden on them forever. For example, once they are released form prison, finding a job and putting their life together is extremely difficult. Many have destroyed their families and their relationships with close friends because they are associated with negative actions and as a convict; sadly, all as a result of inaccurate decisions and false accusations placed by others. Looks can always be deceiving and there is no possible way of accurately deciding if someone is guilty by simply judging by their looks. There is no credibility in a decision made without evidence because an innocent person may end up paying the consequences of someone who did a wrong action, leaving those who commit crimes on the loose and without making them face the consequences for their wrongdoings, they will not reflect on their actions and will simply continue to hurt and deceive others. Since a person cannot be judged right of the bat, they will be innocent until proven guilty. Without the proper evidence to back them up, there is no way to actually determine if this person did something incorrect.

1. Beliefs in opposition to common values should become illegal.

 When it comes to beliefs in opposition to common values becoming illegal, I disagree.  As I have stated previously in my other responses the world, our country, state, city, town and local school is made up of so many different people that it would be impossible for everyone to have the same beliefs. Just because a person thinks one way about something doesn't mean it should be illegal.  Take religion for example, the United States of America is made up of so many different individuals who all have different beliefs. Whether it is politics, religion or one’s up bringing many people do not share the same beliefs. Now, if you were to take a glance at other countries, you would see that their religion and or beliefs are punishable if you do not follow or believe in them. Their religion revolves around their entire country, home and upbringing; not to mention, parenting in these countries; everyone is treated the same way and considered to be doing something illegal if they do not follow the countries belief system. No matter how old or young, who you are and who you are with it is possible for someone to lose their life or their beliefs. Here in the United States of America, we are the land of the free. We have the freedom to choose to do and believe in what we want. If the United States of America became a country where it should be illegal to believe the contrary to any religious belief or political belief then most of the country would be considered guilty due to all the many different personalities, nationalities, upbringings, and many other things that make up what we as individuals truly believe.  The United States army/ soldier’s and or troops in our country have headed to many of these countries in attempts to help and change the ways of many people who have these beliefs or that have to follow these religions in order to live to show them that there can be peace and harmony no matter what you believe in. Their message is simple, for them to be as free as we are; for their countries to learn that we unite no matter what we believe in, that even though we all are different and come from different walks of life; different cultures, different backgrounds, and different countries, we all have the power to have different beliefs and opposing views. We all have a voice and a say and we all have the right to believe in what we want. Many countries for ages have practiced the same outlook on religion and belief for many years. It is important that regardless of what we choose to believe or not to believe in, we shall never be punished by the law or by any other person for being a free thinker or for having our own thoughts.  For these reasons alone, I believe that beliefs in opposition to common values becoming illegal would be a terrible thing for us to have to endure as a country. The United States would be complete chaos and would never be a stable place where we can all express ourselves freely.

1. Justice is best determined in a court of law.

In the United States of America, our legal system is always proud of the fact that justice is rightfully served within the legal/law/judicial system. However, I feel that this is not necessarily the case. Take the Casey Anthony trail for example, who was tried for the murder of her daughter here in the State of Florida. The State tried Casey Anthony for the murder of her daughter and failed to prove (did not have enough evidence/ did not present the case correctly) through evidence that she had killed/murdered her daughter.  Casey Anthony walked away with nothing but a very public trial. She was not convicted of any of the charges that were brought forth against her. Justice in this situation I feel was not served or met. A little girl lost her life and because she was missing for so long, when they found her there was little to no evidence which they could use to prove that she had murdered her daughter. Based on the evidence presented it was clear to most people that she had committed the murder even thought they could not prove it otherwise. It is a shame that the justice system did not see that any of the charges against her should have stuck. She should not be walking around this country free to do as she pleases. She neglected to take care and or insure that her daughter was safe and sound. Her story did not match up with the evidence that was found, at the end of the day the jury let her walk away without a single charge being held against her. That was not justice for that poor little girl who lost her life. I do believe that one should not take matters into their own hands in order to see justice served on someone for a possible heinous crime that they were a victim of.  For example, in Casey Anthony’s case even though other people may think she was guilty, a court of law and jury made up of regular citizens felt that she did not commit the murder. No one, regardless if they believe that she or anyone is guilty and the justice system committed a flaw should take the law into their own hands. If American was a utopia, then perhaps the justice system would be the only one that could determine the fate of those who have committed crimes in a uncorrupted and unbiased way however, this is not the case. Overall I do not think it is fair for someone to take the law into their own hands however, it is certainly shown in the above that in the case of Casey Anthony, justice was not served. The sad truth is that there are many cases like hers in the United States that have the same problems. Sometimes, the citizens of the United States can actually take justice into their own hands and do so in a much more effective manner than a law could, making a court of law not necessarily a place where justice is rightfully and fairly determined.